

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

SB 569 – HB 925

March 25, 2017

SUMMARY OF BILL: Requires the Department of Education (DOE) to approve Montessori programs as a Category 1 school pursuant to the rules and regulations of the State Board of Education (SBE) if the program meets all state requirements for approval. Defines Montessori program. Allows a Montessori program to apply to the Commissioner of the Department of Education for a waiver of any state board rule or statute that inhibits or hinders the program's ability to meet its goals or comply with its mission statement.

Requires the SBE to license a teacher if the teacher: possesses a bachelor's degree; successfully completed a teacher education program accredited by the Montessori Accreditation Council for Teacher Education (MACTE); successfully completed an introductory course in special education for which the individual earned at least three postsecondary credits; and earned a passing score on PRAXIS examinations or other tests used to identify teacher preparedness, as required by the director of schools for a license to teach. Limits the locations where a teacher issued a license under the provisions of this bill may teach within Montessori programs. Requires teachers licensed under the provisions of this bill to complete 18 hours of professional development training, annually, that is specific to the Montessori program.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

**Increase State Expenditures – Exceeds \$10,000/One-Time
\$45,700/Recurring**

Assumptions:

- Montessori schools are non-public and do not receive BEP funding; as a result there is no change in Basic Education Program (BEP) funding formula.
- Based on the information provided by the DOE and the Comptroller of the Treasury (COT), one-time state expenditures will be required to update educator licensure software to meet the requirements of this legislation.
- Additional one-time expenditures may be required to approve Montessori schools as a Category 1 school. However, the DOE currently approves such classifications; therefore, any additional expenditures are estimated to be not significant.
- The total one-time increase in state expenditures as a result of this legislation is reasonably estimated to exceed \$10,000.

- The DOE will require one additional position to assist in the approval of additional Montessori schools and to process and issue new licenses for teachers as required by the legislation.
- The recurring increase in state expenditures for one additional position is estimated to be \$45,736 (\$32,000 salary + \$12,236 benefits + \$1,500 supplies).

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Krista M. Lee". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Krista M. Lee, Executive Director

/rbp